

Frankly, I don't think this administration wants to cut spending at all. The President is only interested in raising taxes, but this year, he has already levied \$150 billion worth of new taxes on the American people. I wholeheartedly support making meaningful cuts, but there is a better way to go about doing it than with the sequester.

Congress needs to sit down and go through the budget line by line, and it needs to figure out what wasteful programs we can get rid of in the middle of this debt crisis. I hope that Democrats will work with Republicans to find a smarter way to cut spending while we also protect American jobs and our national security.

GEORGE ARATANI

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and philanthropist, George Aratani, who passed away last week.

Mr. Aratani was part of the Greatest Generation, and served his country as a member of the Military Intelligence Service, or MIS, during World War II. His service came at a time when tens of thousands of his fellow Japanese Americans were interned in camps scattered in the Western United States. He chose to serve and defend America with no guarantee that his own freedom would be defended in return.

I was proud to work to ensure that MIS members like George Aratani and all of the Go for Broke veterans received the credit and thanks they were due through the Congressional Gold Medal.

When he returned home, Mr. Aratani started and ran several businesses, and dedicated himself to Japanese American educational and cultural causes, including the Go for Broke veterans' memorial and foundation. George Aratani had a profound impact on our country and on his community, and he will be terribly missed.

TOUR DE BLAME

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sequester was a bad idea. I voted "no." It actually came from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, however. The House has voted twice to replace the President's sequester with other spending cuts. However, the "siesta" Senate ignored the House bills and did what it does best—nothing.

Now, in the 11th hour, the President has disowned his sequester and instead has launched the taxpayer-funded tour de blame. He has also dispatched his Cabinet on a tour de fear. The White House "sky is falling" crowd says flights will be delayed and undocumented immigrants in custody will be freed. That is a Madison Avenue-style

campaign to instill fear into Americans.

The President holds the power to determine what bills will be paid, not Congress—but he does not have the will to prioritize spending or manage the people's money. He only knows one way to lead: tax more, spend more, and continue the tour de blame.

And that's just the way it is.

BORDER AND SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the effect of sequestration on our borders will be felt especially hard in my western New York community, home to four crossings on the northern border.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, if sequestration occurs, Customs and Border Protection will be forced to eliminate 2,700 officers and 5,000 Border Patrol agents. In addition to the job losses, this could mean delays of as long as 4 hours at our border crossings.

\$1.5 billion in goods and 300,000 individuals cross the U.S.-Canada border each and every day. Western New York businesses and institutions depend on predictable access to and from southern Ontario. Increased wait times will discourage Canadian consumers from visiting western New York, and that is business we can't afford to lose.

I call on the House to take immediate action to repeal the sequester and to prevent this unnecessary injury to our economy.

THE PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. The President is hitting the road this week for yet another tax increase on hardworking Americans. He already raised taxes just 8 weeks ago. Why the sudden urge to do it again?

The President says this is the plan to replace his sequester that's scheduled to hit on March 1, but the President and the rest of the Democrats who run Washington apparently haven't figured out that we cannot tax our way out of this mess. Tax revenues are set to double over the next decade, and top tax rates have hit their highest levels since 1986. We are already taxing wages and salaries at rates as high as 44 percent.

We need to replace the President's sequester with commonsense spending cuts and reforms, not more taxes. The House has acted twice to achieve this, and now the President needs to put forward a serious plan.

GEORGE ARATANI

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of George Tetsuo Aratani, a philanthropist and business executive who was a champion for Japanese Americans.

Mr. Aratani was born and raised in California and, along with 122,000 other Japanese Americans, was forced into internment camps during World War II. Never letting a poor situation get the best of him, Mr. Aratani used his bilingual skills to serve his country in the Army Military Intelligence Service. Following the war, he started two successful businesses—Mikasa tableware and Kenwood electronics—and enjoyed a wonderful life with his family.

Though he achieved great commercial success, he will always be remembered for his upstanding citizenship in his community. Mr. Aratani and his wife, Sakaye, established the first endowed chair in the country to study the injustice of the Japanese American internment and the efforts to rectify it. In addition, the Aratanis gave millions in support of the Japanese American National Museum, UCLA's Departments of Asian American and East Asian Studies, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Keiro Senior HealthCare, and countless Asian American candidates.

I look to Mr. Aratani as an inspiration for all as he truly lived the American Dream.

MICHAEL ANTHONY SOLIS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the memory of Mr. Michael Anthony Solis, who was an educator. He taught at Anaheim High School in my district. He was a champion for lower income students.

He grew up in Riverside, California, and his family grew up in pretty poor circumstances, but education was always important to them. He enrolled in Riverside Community College where teachers encouraged him to be an educator. As a student teacher, Michael became involved with the AVID program, a program that helps to close that achievement gap from lower income students to the normal. Mr. Solis went on to teach AVID in various southern California schools. He was also the director of AVID for our county education program. He most recently served as our assistant principal at Anaheim High School.

He was impassioned about education. He knew that this would make a difference in so many people's lives. Even though he lost a 40-month battle with cancer, he will be remembered by all who knew him, and his legacy will move forward in all of those students whose lives he has impacted.